New Nouveau Brunswick CANADA

News Release

Communications New Brunswick

N.B. Human Rights Commission

Human Rights Commission supports proposal for coalition against racism (05/07/18)

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SASKATOON, Sask. (CNB) - Human rights commissions attending the meeting of the Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies (CASHRA), held recently in Saskatoon, agreed to provide support in principle for the work of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCU) calling for the establishment of a *Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism.*

Commissions supporting the initiative include: the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission, the Manitoba Human Rights Commission, the Ontario Human Rights Commission, the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission, the Newfoundland and Labrador Human Rights Commission, the North West Territories Human Rights Commission, the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission, Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commission, Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse du Quebec, the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission and the Yukon Human Rights Commission.

Commissions agreed to promote the initiative within their own jurisdictions in keeping with their own priorities and resources.

The proposal to establish a *Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism* is based on the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) plan for an International Coalition of Cities Against Racism. Launched in 2004, its goal is to establish a network of regional coalitions around the world committed to fighting racism.

The preliminary proposal for the Canadian Coalition calls on municipalities to adopt 10 common commitments for combating racism in their communities in the areas of community development, employment, policing, housing, culture, and education, among others.

In the next year, the CCU and partner organizations will consult with municipalities, asking for their feedback and to consider joining the Canadian Coalition. Once a final proposal has been developed, municipalities will be invited to sign a declaration adopting the common commitments and would then develop their own local plans to fight racism.

The Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies (CASHRA) is a forum for federal, provincial and territorial human rights agencies which have as some of their functions the administration and enforcement of anti-discrimination laws.

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